

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of regulating sharing of a multimedia object by a device, the method comprising:

registering usage information for the multimedia object upon sharing the multimedia object;
~~after the registering of the usage information, transmitting the registered usage information to~~
allow billing of a user of the device for an ~~certain~~ amount in accordance with the registered usage information for the multimedia object;

recording user profile information for the user, the user profile information associated with at least one of browsing behavior of the user and a multimedia interest of the user; and

transmitting the recorded user profile information to allow crediting of a bill for the ~~certain~~ amount with a sum, upon receipt of the recorded user profile information together with the registered usage information.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A device arranged for sharing of a multimedia object, comprising:

~~-file sharing means for sharing the multimedia object with other devices;~~

~~-identifying means for obtaining an identifier for the multimedia object being shared, the identifying means comprising a fingerprint calculator arranged to obtain the identifier by computing a fingerprint for at least a portion of the multimedia object;~~

accounting means for registering usage information for the identified multimedia object; ~~and~~

-reporting means for transmitting the registered usage information to a third party when the registered usage information meets a predetermined criterion, to allow afterwards, billing for sharing of the multimedia object in accordance with the registered usage information for the multimedia object, wherein the device is ~~arranged~~ to inhibit sharing of the multimedia object in response to the reporting means failing to transmit the registered usage information to the third party; and

user profile maintenance means for maintaining user profile information associated with at least one of browsing behavior of the user and a multimedia interest of the user.

4.–6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The device of claim 3, in which the usage information being registered for the multimedia object comprises a number of times the multimedia object is being shared.

8. (Original) The device of claim 3, in which the usage information being registered for the multimedia object comprises an indication of a length of the multimedia object.

9. (Original) The device of claim 3, in which the predetermined criterion comprises a predetermined number of times the multimedia object has been shared.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 3, ~~further comprising user profile maintenance means for maintaining a user profile, wherein~~ the reporting means ~~is being arranged to additionally transmit at least a portion of the user profile to the third party.~~

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium containing instructions that when executed by a processing system, cause the processing system to perform a method of regulating sharing of a multimedia object by a device, the method comprising:

registering the usage information for the multimedia object upon sharing of the multimedia object, the registering of the usage information including obtaining an identifier from metadata associated with the multimedia object; and

transmitting the registered usage information to a third party when the registered usage information meets a predetermined criterion; and

billing a user of the device for a ~~certain~~an amount in accordance with the registered usage information for the multimedia object;

recording user profile information for the user, the user profile information associated with at least one of browsing behavior of the user and a multimedia interest of the user; and

crediting a bill for a ~~certain~~the amount with a sum, upon receipt of the recorded user profile information together with the registered usage information.

14. (New) A device to share a multimedia object, the device comprising:

a file sharing module to share the multimedia object with other devices;

a fingerprinting module including a fingerprint calculator to obtain an identifier for the multimedia object by computing a fingerprint for at least a portion of the multimedia object;

an accounting module to register usage information for the multimedia object, based on the identifier;

a reporting module to transmit registered usage information to a third party based on the registered usage information meeting a predetermined criterion to allow billing for sharing of the multimedia object in accordance with the registered usage information, the device to inhibit sharing of the multimedia object in response to the reporting means failing to transmit the registered usage information to the third party; and

a user profile maintenance module to maintain user profile information associated with at least one of browsing behavior of the user and a multimedia interest of the user.

15. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the registered usage information includes a number of times the multimedia object has been shared.

16. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the registered usage information includes an indication of a length of the multimedia object.

17. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the predetermined criterion includes a predetermined number of times the multimedia object has been shared.